

Claims.

1-8. (canceled)

- 9.(currently amended) A fender support for a motor vehicle comprising a lower portion for fixing on at least one rigid part of the vehicle; an upper portion spaced apart from the lower portion and adapted to support a top edge of a fender having an outside face visible on an exterior of the vehicle and an inside face opposite the outside face; the support being adapted to hold the top edge of the fender at a distance from the rigid part of the vehicle that is closest to the top edge; the support including a support sheet comprising support areas spaced apart from each other so that the support sheet presents a structure that is discontinuous and each of ~~which~~ the support areas substantially conforms to the inside face of the fender near the top edge, the support sheet supporting the top edge of the fender.
- 10.(previously presented) The support of claim 9, wherein at least two adjacent support areas are separated by no greater than about 65 mm.
- 11.(canceled).
- 12.(previously presented) The support of claim 9, wherein the top edge of the fender has a length and the support sheet is adapted to extend over the entire length.
- 13.(previously presented) The support of claim 9, wherein a base supports the support areas and the base includes a deformable portion and a breakable portion.
- 14.(previously presented) The support of claim 13, wherein the deformable and breakable portions form a single part having a staircase shape including rupture starters formed therein.
- 15.(previously presented) The support of claim 9, wherein a groove extends the support

areas and the groove is adapted to receive an inwardly-directed rim of a fender.

16.(previously presented) The support of claim 15, wherein the groove includes fixing clips adapted to secure the rim in the groove.

17.(currently amended) A fender support for a motor vehicle comprising a lower portion for fixing on at least one rigid part of the vehicle; an upper portion spaced apart from the lower portion and adapted to support a top edge of a fender having an outside face visible on an exterior of the vehicle and an inside face opposite the outside face; the support including a support sheet adapted to hold the top edge of the fender at a distance from the rigid part of the vehicle that is closest to the top edge; the support sheet comprising a base supporting a plurality of support areas; the base including a deformable portion and a breakable portion, and the deformable and breakable portions forming a single part having a staircase shape including rupture starters formed therein; the supporting areas spaced apart from each other so that the support sheet presents a structure that is discontinuous and each of ~~which~~ the support areas substantially conforming to the inside face of the fender near the top edge.